



Conflict Antiquities Symposium

U.S. Department of State | Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Public Affairs and Strategic Communications

Image: Ancient Assyrian ivory plaque used to decorate royal furniture; excavated by archaeologists in northern Iraq; stolen by ISIL from Mosul Museum; recovered by U.S. troops.

Summary

On Tuesday, September 29 from 4:30 - 7:00 pm EDT the U.S. Department of State and The Metropolitan Museum of Art will host a symposium, discussion, and reception on “Conflict Antiquities: Forging a Public/Private Response to Save the Endangered Patrimony of Iraq and Syria.” Goals of the event, held at the Met Museum in New York, are:

- To spotlight the connection between ISIL’s looting and trafficking of antiquities and the financing of its terrorist operations;
- To highlight the importance of effective international law enforcement action to curb the activities of traffickers and unscrupulous dealers and collectors;
- To identify practical ways of expanding the sharing of information and documentation on the looting and destruction of Iraqi and Syrian archeological and historical sites; and
- To forge effective global public-private education and advocacy campaigns promoting best practices for private sector actors such as museums, auction houses and collectors in relation to the Iraqi/Syrian cultural heritage crisis.

Symposium speakers include:

Thomas Campbell	Director, Metropolitan Museum of Art
Antony J. Blinken	Deputy Secretary of State
Irina Bokova	Director General, UNESCO
Michael Danti	American Schools of Oriental Research
Andrew Keller	Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic Affairs
Rob Hartung	Deputy Assistant of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security
Lev Kubiak toms	Assistant Director, International Operations, Immigration & Customs Enforcement
Representative	Department of Justice
Trevor Rajah/Mauro Medico Crime	Terrorism Prevention Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and
Sharon Cott	Senior Vice President, Secretary, and General Counsel, Metropolitan Museum of Art
Ute Wartenberg Kagan	Executive Director, American Numismatic Society
Markus Hilgert	Director, Pergamon Museum
Sandy Cobden	General Counsel, Christie’s Auction House

Wolfgang Weber

Head of Global Regulatory Policy, eBay

Below, please find suggested content you are encouraged to use for the symposium.

Lead Accounts:

Twitter: [@HeritageatState](#), [@ECAatState](#), [@ECA_AS](#)

Please also see the @HeritageAtState's Twitter list "[Conflict Antiquities 2015](#)" created specifically for this event, where you can find tweets from participating organizations.

Facebook: [Exchange Programs At State](#)

Flickr: We've created an [album](#) with pictures related to the symposium.

Instagram: [Exchange Our World](#)

Key Participant Accounts:

Twitter:

USG: @Stengel, @ECA_AS, @ABlinken, @EconEngage, @StateINL, @TheJusticeDept, @ICEgov, @UNODC

External: @MetMuseum, @ChristiesInc, @eBay, @IrinaBokova (Director General UN-ESCO), @ASOResearch, @DantiMDanti (Director ASOR Syrian Heritage Initiative), @TextCultures (Director of Pergamon Museum)

Facebook:

USG: [Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs](#), [Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement](#), [Department of Justice](#), [Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#)

External: [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#), [Christie's](#), [eBay](#), [ASOR](#), [UNESCO](#), [UNODC](#)

Instagram

USG: [ICEgov](#), [TheJusticeDept](#)

External: [ThomasCampbell](#) (Director of the Met), [MetMuseum](#), [ChristiesInc](#), [Ebay](#), [UNESCO](#)

Hashtags:

[#HeritageInPeril](#)

This is the main hashtag for the symposium; please use widely.

[#CulturalHeritage](#)

This hashtag is associated with anything and everything related to cultural heritage world-wide. Used by governments, NGOs, and general public.

[#Unite4Heritage](#)

UNESCO social media campaign launched by Director-General Bokova at the University of Baghdad in Iraq on 28 March 2015. The tag can be used to join the broader conversation about the international community uniting to protect cultural heritage, especially in areas and times of conflict and instability.

[#ICOMRedList](#)

This hashtag is associated with conversations on social media related to the Department-supported *Red Lists of Cultural Objects at Risk* produced by the International Council of Museums. Red Lists are a tool in combatting the trafficking and illegal sale of antiquities, most notably from Iraq and Syria.

[#CulturalPreservation](#)

This hashtag is associated with current conversations on social media about the value of cultural heritage and its preservation for future generations.

Social Media Content

We have created [a Flickr album](#) with various pictures to download and use in association with the event.

Facebook and Instagram:

- Did you know that the looting of Iraqi and Syrian archeological and historical sites and trafficking of antiquities finances terrorist operations? Join us to learn more about this important issue and how the U.S. Government and private sector organizations are addressing it with strategic solutions during a symposium Sept. 29, 4:30 to 7 p.m. EDT. More information here: (Link) (Post with graphic for event).
- Interested in cultural heritage issues? The U.S. Department of State and the Metropolitan Museum of Art are co-sponsoring a symposium Sept. 29 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. EDT that will highlight the connection between ISIL's looting and trafficking of antiquities and the financing of its terrorist operations. The symposium will also address the importance of effective international law enforcement action to curb the activities of traffickers and unscrupulous dealers and collectors, identifying practical ways of expanding the sharing of information and documentation on the looting and destruction of Iraqi and Syrian archeological and historical sites, and forging effective global public-private education and advocacy campaigns to promote best practices for collectors and auction houses in relation to the Iraqi/Syrian cultural heritage crisis. Learn more: (LINK). (Post with images [from Flickr album](#)).

- Have you been following the Iraqi/Syrian cultural heritage crisis? Interested in learning more about how antiquities trafficking from Iraqi and Syrian archeological and historical sites finances terrorist operations? Join the U.S. Department of State for a “Conflict Antiquities” symposium Sept. 29 at 4:30 p.m. EDT. The event will feature a variety of thought leaders from private sector organizations and U.S. law enforcement addressing these issues, and you can learn more and join the discussion on social media by following #HeritageInPeril. Learn more: (LINK)

Twitter:

- Stay tuned for info on how to participate in the @StateDept-@MetMuseum event “Conflict Antiquities” on 9/29 (ATTACH PROMO GRAPHIC)
- #SaveTheDate Hear how law enforcement & private orgs are saving #HeritageInPeril from Iraq/Syria (LINK TO LIVE STREAM INFO)(ATTACH PROMO GRAPHIC)
- Follow @HeritageAtState's 'Conflict Antiquities 2015' list for participant live tweets on #HeritageInPeril <https://twitter.com/HeritageAtState/lists/conflict-antiquities-2015>
- Watch the livestream of "Conflict Antiquities" on 9/29 starting at 4:30 pm EDT #HeritageInPeril (LINK TO LIVE STREAM INFO)
- Watch @StateDept @MetMuseum event for news re: ISIL, looting, public/private response (LINK TO LIVE STREAM INFO)(ATTACH PROMO GRAPHIC)
- .@StateDept “Conflict Antiquities” @MetMuseum to forge public/private response to save #HeritageInPeril (link to media note)
- Event to bring together @ChristiesInc @eBay & others to discuss best practices to fight #CulturalProperty trafficking (ATTACH PROMO GRAPHIC)
- On #UNGA margin, museum professionals, dealers & collectors gather to discuss best practices to save #HeritageInPeril (ATTACH PROMO GRAPHIC)
- What are best practices to fight #culturalproperty trafficking? Hear from @ChristiesInc @eBay @TextCultures & others (LINK TO LIVE STREAM INFO)
- .@HeritageAtState will be live tweeting “Conflict Antiquities” symposium on 9/29 starting at 4:30pm EDT - follow along with #HeritageInPeril
- Follow @HeritageatState and #HeritageInPeril for live tweeting from @StateDept @MetMuseum “Conflict Antiquities” symposium (ATTACH PROMO GRAPHIC)
- Want to learn more about Syria’s #HeritageInPeril before the symposium? <http://eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center/syria-cultural-heritage-initiative>
- What has the @StateDept done to protect & preserve Iraqi #CulturalHeritage? <http://eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center/iraq-cultural-heritage-initiative>
- Catch up on what happened at last year’s @MetMuseum & @StateDept

#HeritageInPeril event [Add photo from <http://eca.state.gov/gallery/heritage-peril-photo-gallery>] <http://eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center/syria-cultural-heritage-initiative/heritage-peril-iraq-and-syria>

- Interested in learning about @StateDept support for #CulturalPreservation? Follow @HeritageatState for updates.
- .@StateDept's @HeritageAtState helps protect ancient monuments, objects, and archaeological sites <http://go.usa.gov/3FAAd>